The Clarion

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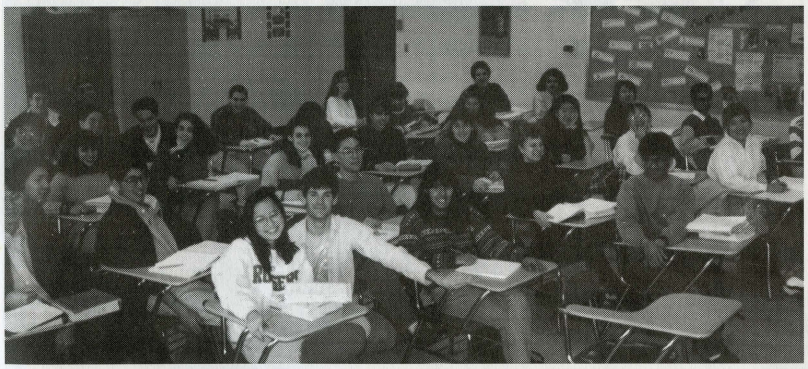

Peggy Au

Edward Christensen's AP Calculus class of 40 students takes a break from the lesson.

Changes forced in math department

by Que-Chi Tran

The retirement of Mrs. Shirley Bennett and the medical leave of Mr. Lou Kosa have prompted a series of abrupt changes in the math department. Mr. Kosa's classes are now taught by a new teacher, Ms. Christine Ottway. At press time, Mrs. Bennett's replacement had yet to arrive.

Before Ms. Ottway's arrival, Mr. Kosa's classes were temporarily instructed by other EBHS math teachers.

Senior Kristen Hellmers said, "You [couldn't] get used to one style of teaching because each teacher [had] a different style."

"Although Ms. Ottway seems strict, it's great that we finally have a permanent teacher," said junior Ronny Eng.

Ms. Ottway is sympathetic to the plight of her students. "It's tough. The changes in teachers have broken the continuity of what they're trying to learn," she stated.

Mrs. Bennett handed in her resignation to be effective on December 23, but she volunteered to remain teaching until the replacement arrived on January 7. However, on January 5, the permanent replacement called to inform the math department that she had chosen to take another offer in the business community. Since then, the math department has arranged for in-house coverage of the classes while continuing interviews to find a new teacher. The recommendation of the chosen teacher was presented to the Central Office on February 3.

Ms. Kathy Wilker, head of the math department, assures students, "We are trying to do everything as quickly as possible for the sake of everyone involved, particularly the students."

Until a replacement arrives, Ms. Wilker is teaching Mrs. Bennett's former AP Calculus AB class. Mr. Edward Christensen, Ms. Bernadette Richvalsky, Ms. Jo Ann Somers, and Ms. Annette Stancik are also contributing to the effort.

Mr. Christensen, who currently instructs the 40-person AP calculus BC class, explained, "It's not anyone's fault in the administration or faculty. We have to do the best we can whether the situation is temporary or not. The students will be taken care of. My only concern is that, once I get to know my students, I get to like them. When it's over, I'll feel bad."

Despite efforts to reconcile the situation, one anonymous AP Calculus student said, "If the students in my class are to be prepared for the May AP test, a new teacher is needed as soon as possible."

Senior Ronni Astroff, who experienced this sudden change in teachers, said, "I don't understand calculus and it's hard to learn when there are 40 people in my class."

Classes do not stop at 2:10:

Adult school courses open to students

by Amy Erenrich

The Adult and Community Education School will be offering several courses of special interest to high school students on Monday and Wednesday evenings this spring. Most classes begin the week of March 1.

Students may enroll by mail with the registration forms sent to homes during the week of January 10. All registrations will be accepted only through the first week of March.

Ten sessions of an SAT review course will be offered for $45.00. "Better Writing in Ten Easy Lessons," a class to help students become more adept at any type of writing—from term papers to friendly letters, will be offered for $35.00.

Arts, hobbies, and dance classes, ranging in price from $18.00 to $47.00, will also be offered. The list of new courses runs the gamut —from "Line Dancing," in which students will learn social dances such as the Continental or the Electric Slide, to "Aviation Discovery" and "Undersea Discovery." These new courses will join perennial favorites such as Bird Watching, Oil Painting, Ceramics, Photography, and Bonsai.

Exercise and Relaxation classes, which are priced between $30.00 and $40.00, include courses such as Belly Dancing, Golf, Tennis, Personal Defense, Tae Kwon Do, and T'ai Chi Ch'uan.

Computer classes can cost from $35.00 through $75.00. Courses for the computer ingenue such as "Introduction to the Macintosh," "Understanding Appleworks: Beginners," and "Lotus for the First Time User" will be available, as well as courses for those who are more experienced with computers. In addition, in a new course entitled "Computer Games," students will have opportunities to master software games from "Wheel of Fortune" to "Where in the World is Carmen SanDiego."

Learn to find Carmen SanDiego

Venus de Milo at EBHS

Rachel Stark

Venus figure in two hall mural sports a bikini. See details in A&E beat on page 3.

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Board of Education moving

by Samir Dhindhwal

The East Brunswick Board of Education will very soon be consolidating its administrative operations in a newly acquired building situated at 760 Route 18.

The office building will cost $900,000.

The new office building will be purchased at a cost of $900,000, or slightly less than $32 a square foot. Funding will be provided by the proceeds generated by the sale of the McGuiness School at the corner of Dunhams Corner Road and Hardenburg Lane, the old Board of Education building located on Milltown Road, and township land in the Riva Ave./Golden Pond area.

A process known as the Inter-Local Service Agreement will be employed in the purchase of the new office building. Under the agreement, the Township of East Brunswick will purchase the property with money borrowed at low interest rates. Bids for the sale of the old properties will then be solicited and the highest bidders will be awarded the properties.

"Since we anticipate that the amount of money that the three [properties] will generate will offset the cost of the building, it means this is of no cost to the taxpayers," said Board of Education Secretary Gene Poquette.

Combining the Milltown Road and Smith offices will eliminate needless problems for both administrators and township residents. Administrators will now be able to hold meetings and exchange ideas freely without commuting across town or using expensive computer-operated modems.

No cost to taxpayers.

Township residents will be able to register their children, file guardianship papers, or attend public meetings at the modern, wheelchair-accessible facility.

No relief in bathrooms

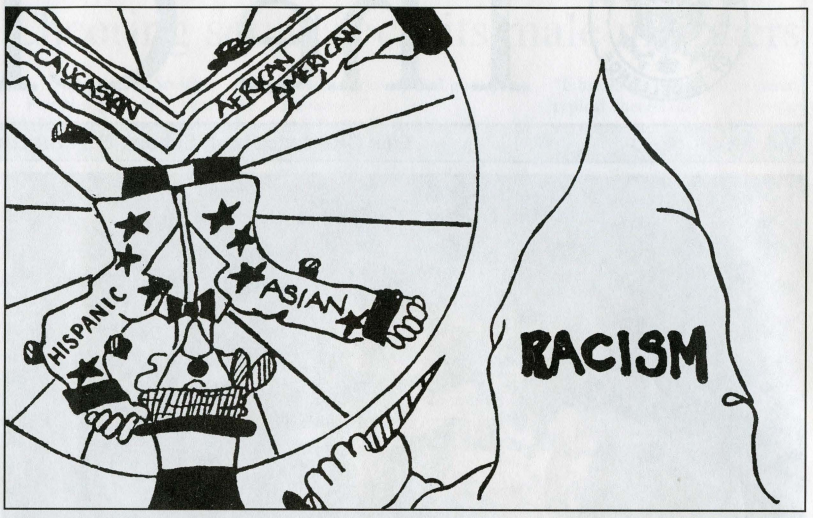
At one time or another, every high school student has to face the problem of going to the bathroom in school. The real problem, however, is actually the bathrooms themselves. Although steps are being taken to make public bathrooms more sanitary, these advances appear to have bypassed EBHS entirely.

The conditions found in the bathrooms of EBHS are deplorable. During passing time, the opening of a bathroom door will release a toxic cloud of cigarette smoke into that section of the hallway. There is rarely any soap in the dispensers. Also, the sinks and electric hand dryers are often out of order, and there are no paper towels and few garbage cans for such occasions. Frequently bathrooms are locked because they are out of order or because janitors are removing graffiti offensive to students or members of the administration. The bathrooms in the boys locker room do not have doors on the stalls. The mirrors are scratched and cloudy. The floors look dirty and finding toilet tissue is sometimes a difficult adventure.

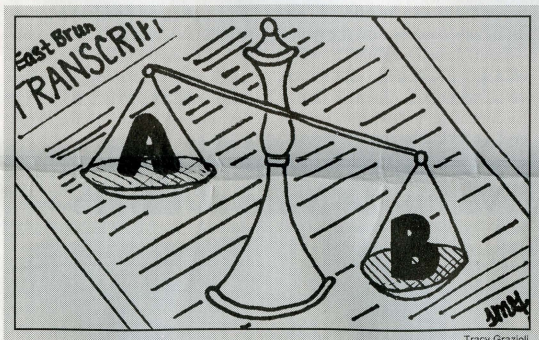
It is illogical for these conditions to exist in a Presidential Blue Ribbon School such as EBHS, especially when so many precautions have been taken. During class, students who wish to use the bathrooms are required to have passes, and recently implemented rules limit the number of passes a substitute teacher can distribute. Also, only two students are permitted to use the facilities at one time during lunch periods, and the limited passing time does not give many people the opportunity to visit bathrooms between classes. In addition, the halls are always supervised.

The administration has a variety of options at its disposal to deal with this problem. Hall monitors could be placed inside bathrooms to ensure they are treated properly. Students should find another place to express their frustrations. Finally, the administration must pay more attention to the upkeep of every bathroom in the school.

The state of EBHS bathrooms can no longer be ignored. Under current conditions, many students will not use the school bathrooms unless it is an absolute emergency. That is neither fair nor healthy.



Beth Cackowski



Tracy Grazioli

Weighting doesn't measure up

Should grades be weighted? The answer is a definite no. We as students tend to overlook this issue, but it is as important as the hat policy or the dress code. It is an issue which affects every student and his/her future.

"Nature never rhymes her children, nor makes two men alike," said Ralph Waldo Emerson. Every single person is an unique individual who has his/her own potential and talent. Hence, classes are scheduled accordingly. Honors and advanced placement courses are more challenging than non-honors courses, but all courses work their students to their fullest potential. A non-honors student should put forth the same amount of effort as an honors student. One cannot be blamed for having a different degree of potential in a certain subject.

Intelligence does not measure success in one's future. The willingness to work is the factor that mainly contributes to one's achievements. Colleges should not consider only those who are in honors classes for admission, but also those hard workers in non-honors classes as well. Making the most out of one's abilities is the most important key to success and prosperity. A hard-working non-honors student's path to success should not be hindered by his/her inability to take advantage of honors points. Yet there is no doubt that weighting grades affects students' chances of getting into colleges. An A+ in an honors course translates to a 4.945 on the weighted scale, while an A+ in a regular course receives a numerical value of 4.3. The difference between the two numbers has a strong impact on class rankings. Admissions officers simply do not have enough time to look through each application that carefully. Instead, many colleges and universities re-rank applicants according to the statistics given on their transcripts. Not weighting the grades may force the admissions offices to look at the transcripts more carefully providing a more equal opportunity for all applicants.

Furthermore, weighting grades creates a mob of "grade-mongers" who will try to get into honors classes even if they do not have the potential to succeed in such classes. Most college courses are graded on a 4.0 scale, with no extra weight given to honors classes. If high school is a preparation for college, the high school should use the same system.

Point and Counterpoint: *Weighted point values*

Credit for extra effort

Three letters appear on report cards every June that have concerned students since the eighth grade—their GPA (grade point average). GPA is a system that determines class rank by assigning a numerical value to the traditional letter grade.

Years ago, the highest attainable GPA was a 4.0, equivalent to an A+ earned in every class. Today, the value for the same A+ average has risen to a 4.945. This change is due to the Honors program.

Honors courses have been part of the EBHS curriculum for many years, but the weighted GPA has been a recent addition. This new system was designed for the benefit of the students. It recognizes the difference in the work load for honors classes in comparison to non-honors classes. However, the curriculum and the grading system have remained intact.

The best way to demonstrate the advantages of a weighted GPA is through an example. In this scenario, Student 1 is in a non-honors class, while Student 2 is in an honors class. Each student earns an A. Under the old one value system, both students would receive the same numerical grade value of a 4.0. However, using the weight GPA scale, Student 1 still receives a 4.0, while Student 2 earns a 4.6. Weighted GPAs do not penalize those in non-honors classes, but they do give credit to the extra work effort of those in honors classes.

One of the duties of school is to prepare students for the adult world. This means that wherever applicable, adult systems should be simulated through education. In the adult world, workers are compensated for their extra work by getting paid for overtime. This is an acceptable method to reward those who work more, without punishing those who do not do as much work. This same principle can be applied to the weighting of GPAs. The final GPA would then reflect the more difficult work load of an honors student, without hurting a non-honors student.

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Local Government

with Kenny Stall

The Student Council has been very busy during the last couple of months. Since this column didn't appear in the last issue, I'll take this opportunity to update you on what's been going on.

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For Thanksgiving, the Student Council raised $418 for the charity organization "Elijah's Promise." The Hand in Hand Corporation donated another $418 to match that donation. Those of you who contributed should feel proud of yourselves.

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On December 8, anti-Semitic graffiti was discovered spray-painted on the exterior wall of the cafeteria. The Student Council worked closely with the administration to handle this crisis. Members of the Student Council Executive Board and the administration jointly drafted a letter deploring the graffiti, stating what action had been taken in response to the incident, and explaining what action had been taken to prevent it from happening again. This letter was sent to both students' homes and several local newspapers, and was read by teachers during homeroom class. It was also read aloud by a member of the Student Council during a meeting of the East Brunswick Township Council and the East Brunswick Board of Education. Members of the Student Council met with the mayor and the Human Relations Council to discuss the issue, and an open public forum took place on Sunday, January 24, at 2 p.m., in the auditorium, to discuss bias. Members of the Student Council Executive Board also participated in this forum.

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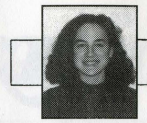
Once again, the Student Council has recreated a College Board. Any senior interested in exhibiting his or her own college plans should submit a piece of paper with his or her name, college choice, the college's location, and the school colors to the Student Council mailbox in the main office.



Sophomores 95

with Alyssa Kramer

Many sophomores have been traveling the globe visiting friends and family or just relaxing for a break from school. **Mica Bard** and **Betsy Ostrov** both spent time in Israel this winter vacation visiting relatives and seeing the various sights and points of interest. The most famous spot for a winter vacation is the ever popular sunny Florida. Actually, coming home from Florida, **Jason Lustbader** happened to be seated right next to **Leigh Fendrick.** Now, isn't that a coincidence???

****

Maria Alsina was selected from EBHS to attend the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar. This three day seminar will let Maria meet other sophomores with similar potential while getting involved in activities and listening to speakers. Her winning application revealed her skills in community service and volunteering as well as academic abilities. "I'm very honored that I was chosen to attend the seminar and I hope to take advantage of this great opportunity!" said Maria.

****

A big thank-you to everyone who participated in one of the first sophomore fund-raisers this year, the selling of EBHS waterbottles. The money raised will help support our class.

Juniors 94

with Melissa A. Oppen

Heather Morgan is currently visiting Israel as an exchange student with USY HIGH, a program sponsored by her youth group. She was the only student from New Jersey chosen to attend.

In a letter back to the United States, Heather wrote, "I love it here now. The people are really nice, and I am learning so much, seeing incredible things."

Heather cited traveling across Israel as "more than an experience." So far, she has had an overnight field trip in Jerusalem and has lived in a dorm in Hod H'Sharon.

****

Our junior class has (once again) proven itself to be extremely talented through this year's nominees for the Governor's Schools. This year's instrumental nominees are: **Gordon Roberts** for the Tuba, **Andrew Leber** for the baritone, **Adam Heller** for percussion, **Kim Eng** for the piano, **Steve Yang** for the strings, and **Rachel Rear** for the woodwinds. **Harrison Schweiloch** and **Andrea Guzman** have been nominated for the creative writing program, while **Shannon Forte** and **Andrea Olan** are representing EBHS in dance. **Jean Clark** and **Sheilliam Lee** are this year's candidates for the visual arts department, and **Meredith Bergman** and **Patti Murtha** have applied to the theater arts program. Public Issues nominees are **Rajat Chand** and **Jennifer Tan. Kim Simon** and **Jeff Weckstein** have been nominated for the Governor's School on the Environment, and **Mark Staloff** and **Genevieve Yuen** are candidates for the Governor's School of the Sciences.

Alex Lai

Clubs

with Allison Gold

For anyone looking for a good Fiesta, the Spanish Club, in conjunction with the Spanish Honor Society, will be sponsoring the second Spanish Night, on March 4, in the cafeteria. The evening will include Spanish food, authentic Spanish dances (performed by Club and Society members), and Spanish entertainment. Honor Society president senior, **Michelle Eng**, said that she hopes Spanish Night will "bring all kinds of people together."

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Folio is looking for submissions from writers. Anyone interested in writing should see Ms. Jody Danis. Also, look out for Folio poetry readings. Anyone can attend these readings and listen or participate. Any student who would like to, can read his/her own works or somebody else's works. Refreshments are usually served and the readings are located in the teacher's room in the cafeteria.

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The Annual New Jersey District Key Club Convention will take place in March at Tamiment Resort in the Poconos. The convention is especially important for key Club Officers, but all members are welcome. Key Clubs from all over New Jersey will be attending. Elections will be held for International Presidents and District Governors. A general session will be held for announcements, then members will split into groups for workshops about topics such as, specific offices, general membership, public speaking, and fund raising. Members will also be able to enjoy the resort in activities including, relaxation, swimming, ping-pong, and meeting new people.

Seniors

with Jodi K. Lynn

We made it! It's February, and it's second semester! Midterms are over, many of us know which college we will attend, and those of us who do not know should be finding out shortly. So, let's just sit back and relax, and enjoy the rest of senior year!

In the last issue of the *Clarion*, several seniors who had received early notice from colleges were mentioned in this column. One of those students, **Francisco Alsina,** recently received a nomination to attend the Naval Academy from Senator Dick Zimmer. Each senator makes only two nominations for each military academy, and Zimmer's nomination allowed Francisco to pass the Board of Review and receive an official appointment to the Naval Academy.

****

Amy Erenrich was named Rotary Club Student of the Month in December, and **Jocelyn So** was selected for January. This December was the first time the Rotary Club presented the award, which will henceforth be given to one EBHS student each month. Amy and Joceyln each attended a luncheon with members of the Rotary Club at the East Brunswick Chateau as a result of the honor.

****

The senior class sponsored Game Show Night in January, and the event was very successful. Game Show Night, which raised over 400 dollars, consisted of two rounds of *Jeopardy!* and two rounds of the *Newlywed Game*. Seniors **Amy Erenrich** and **Lisa Rabii** won their respective rounds of Jeopardy. **Jim Varick** and **Nick Szymanski** won the "friends round" of the *Newlywed Game*, while **Marc Moscowitz** and his girlfriend won the "couples round." **Harris Aaron** and **Rich DeGuzman** were the emcees for the event.

****

Alana Eliwatt recently went on a five day trip to California with the North Jersey Nomads, a state all-star field hockey team. Alana played six games on the trip, and then enjoyed two days off. She has also been invited to play in a National Indoor Tournament in Maryland this spring.

****

Jason Guttman's torn ligament in his knee has prevented him from skiing until July, but he remains a member of the New Jersey Junior Olympic Team. Jason is currently ranked seventeenth in the nation in racing in his age group. He is now undergoing therapy, and hopes to train this summer and compete internationally again in the autumn.

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Robert Asaro-Angelo took a two day trip to Washington, DC, to witness President Bill Clinton's inauguration and take part in the accompanying festivities. "I've always been planning to go to the inauguration when a Democrat got elected. I helped a lot in the campaign, so I wanted to be there for the celebration," Robert said.

****

Lisa Rabii and **Carla Swartz** have been named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's All-American team. Lisa and Carla were honored at the Association's annual banquet, held on January 16 in Baltimore.

Arts & Entertainment

with Suzanne Klein

Stop right where you are, folks, and head straight for two hall. Notice anything different? Okay, I'll give you a hint. Look up. No, not that far, but *just* over the lockers. That's right! The new artwork!

For those of you who haven't followed my instructions, remember the mural that used to adorn the above-the-lockers area? Well, it's no more. That's right! The mural, which consisted of the names of shows, such as *Candide* and *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, has been repainted by the students in the Art Studio class, and now has a variety of creative and interesting paintings on it, including several panda bears, and a body builder, as well as a rather controversial painting of the famous statue, Venus de Milo. (In case you don't know, she's kind of, uh, naked. Guys, try not to come running all at once.)

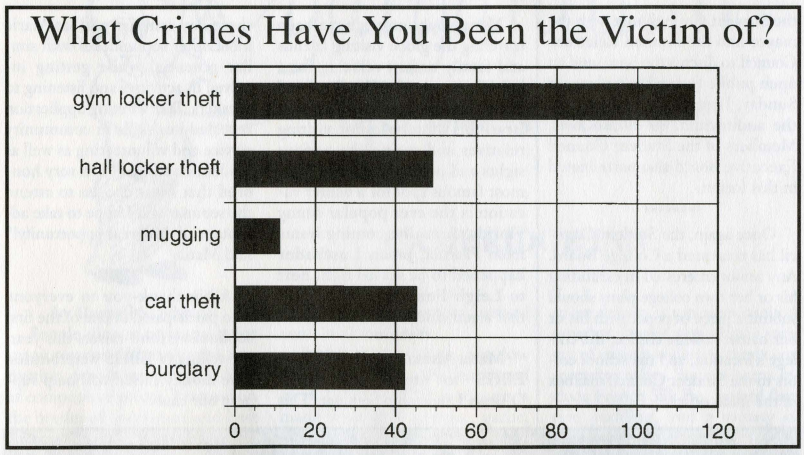
As the course guide explained, Art Studio is actually a course for students who intend to major in some form of visual art in college, and it helps them to develop their portfolios. The class, which is taught by Mr. Roy Risley, is only open to seniors during the first half of the year.

Johanna Polvi-Lohikosk, a student involved in the project, described the assignment to me. The students were given only five days to paint things related to the arts on the three murals. The only other restriction was that the entire thing **had** to be done in green, black, and white. These artists really proved their talent; with just three colors, they were able to portray many different objects with great depth. This is art that is worth checking out!

****

Now it's time for Funky Fun Fact #3; In honor of that, "holiday" last week, I quote the song "I'm Shooting Cupid" by Voice of the Beehive…"Romeo and Juliet/ Anthony and Cleopatra/ Adam and Eve/Would've been much better off if you'd left them all alone." (The lyric is speaking to Cupid, in case you didn't catch on.) It has a good point, don't you think?

Reality and anxiety:



Opinions concerning crimes expressed

by Hilary Maugham and Jen Tan

Recently, the *Clarion* conducted a survey of 306 EBHS students on crime. The results give an interesting view of East Brunswick and the high school through the eyes of the students.

In response to the question, "Have you ever witnessed a crime, 121 students replied "yes", while 149 replied "no".

The primary concerns of students are theft, drugs, rape, carjacking, and mugging. Despite such concerns with all these crimes, few students had been involved in life-threatening situations.

Still, several students responded that they have been victims of crime. Junior Devika Kapur wrote she had been attacked by "a burglar with a gun," while a male junior replied, "Someone tried to knife me." A female sophomore wrote, "A gun was put to my head, but it wasn't loaded." Outside of East Brunswick, a sophomore said he was in "a robbery in New York." However, the majority of people surveyed (271) replied that they had never been in a life-threatening situation.

In answer to, "What kind of crime would a friend have to commit before you would turn him/her in?" sixty people said none. "I wouldn't turn in a friend," answered senior Greg Hendler. A female junior replied, "I would never tell anyone anything about anything…it's none of my business!" However, there were 32 students who would turn in a friend for rape, 112 who would for murder, and 26 who would report a friend for mugging/assault. Although a majority of students listed stealing as a major concern, only 19 would turn in their classmates for doing so. One female junior wrote, "[The crime] would have to be pretty extreme. Plus, I'd have to witness it." Most students agreed.

Question number eighteen on the survey addressed a volatile issue —being threatened by a fellow student. Seventy-seven people had been threatened at some point in time. Some of the more interesting reasons behind the threats were, "a parking spot conflict," "she threatened to kill me because I stole her boyfriend," and "I got told off by a senior girl last year."

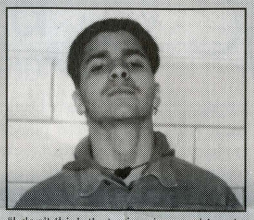
While only a few people stated they did not feel safe in school (nine females and nineteen males), they seemed to have good reasons why. Junior Evan Lereah wrote, "Sometimes I just can't help feeling afraid in this school. Everyone here is prone to violence. The most common phrase I hear is, 'I'll kick your [butt]!' " A male junior replied that he thought the aides were too busy worrying about hats, rather than watching out for danger. Even some of the people who answered yes really do not feel utterly safe. Monica Santamaria, a junior, said, "EBHS teenagers have a lot of tension…the biggest problem in EBHS is racism." Ray Toma, also a junior, suggested metal detectors in school as a solution. Nevertheless, these students were in the minority.

Despite the fears expressed in this survey, East Brunswick was rated among the safest by 146 students, and above average by 136 students. Yet many people found there is room for improvement. Junior Stella Levin wrote, "There are cops everywhere but the places that need them." Also, many students felt that the police were too occupied with minor traffic violations, rather than serious crimes. A female junior reported, "The alarm system of my house went off and the police never came." So while the town may not be perfect, as senior Michelle Meyer said, "I don't think that East Brunswick is such a dangerous place, but everyone should be careful!"

Inquiring Photographer with Rachel Stark

Is crime a problem in East Brunswick?

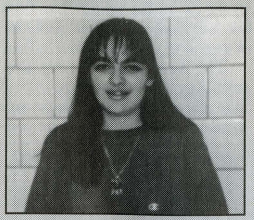
"No I really don't think it's a problem."
—Grace Cham (senior)



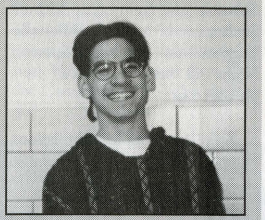
"I don't think that crime is a problem in East Brunswick or EBHS, but I do think racism towards minorities is."
—Florentino Vasquez (junior)

"Well, now, that depends how you categorize crime, doesn't it?"
—Debra Shaffer (senior)

"Crime is a real problem with today's students."
—Stuart Solomon (junior)



"Not anymore because the 'bad influence of hats' is gone."
—Melissa Colontino (sophomore)



"Crime is something one must experience in order to say it is a problem. It is definitely a problem."
—Adam Heller (junior)

Theft plagues locker rooms

by Christin Caroselli

Thefts occurring in gym locker rooms have become a serious concern for students at EBHS. Clothing, money, jewelry, and other items are often stolen from the locker rooms during physical education classes.

On the first day of gym class each student is assigned a gym locker in which to store his or her change of clothing and sneakers, as well as any other items that have to be locked up during class. The teachers specifically warn students that items may be stolen from the lockers at any time if they are left unlocked.

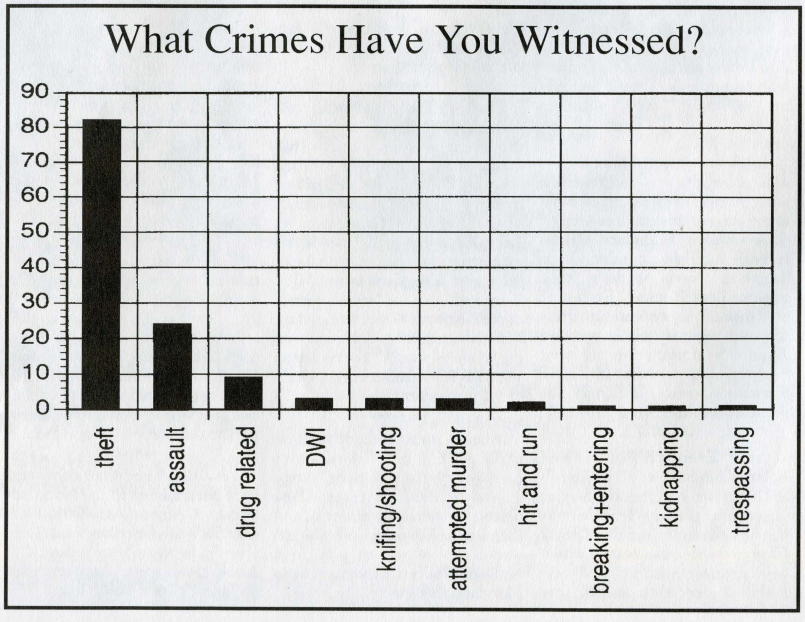
Thefts are more prevalent at the beginning of the year and during the holiday season, and occur more frequently in the girls locker room. The most common type of theft is that of unguarded pocketbooks. The exact number of thefts is unknown, since many incidents go unreported.

Many students who have had items stolen attribute the thefts either to leaving items unguarded or to leaving their lockers unlocked. Senior Dang Hai Nguyen said, "I think that carelessness is the sole cause of theft."

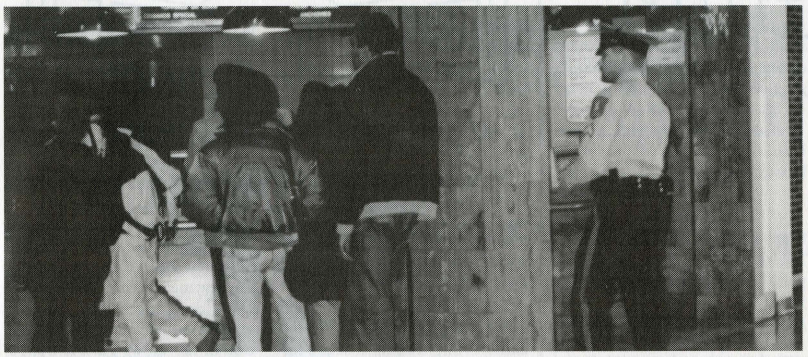
Teachers and administrators have taken steps to deter theft. Anyone caught stealing will be suspended and will have a complaint filed against them with the police. Physical Education teacher Mrs. Karen Florek said, "The rash of locker room thefts has gone down because we are walking in [on] the girls. We have become more aware of the problem."

There are precautions that students can take themselves. Assistant Principal Leslie Szukics said, "The solution [to the thefts] is to be careful to put items away, and very valuable possessions shouldn't be brought to school."

Mrs. Florek added, "Leaving [items] in bookbags will not deter a theft. [Students] should lock them up."



Crime and the fear of it



Wendy Bessenoff

Increased instances of crime force local businesses to beef up security.

Alarming rise in bias crime

by Melissa Wohlstetter

Recently, East Brunswick has become the target of several racist incidents.

On December eighth, a swastika, a peace symbol and the phrases "KKK" and "Jews Suck" were found on the rear wall of the EBHS cafeteria patio. No one has been apprehended in this case of vandalism.

Racist graffiti has also been found at the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School. References to slavery and the Ku Klux Klan were written on a dumpster at the East Brunswick campus on Rues Lane.

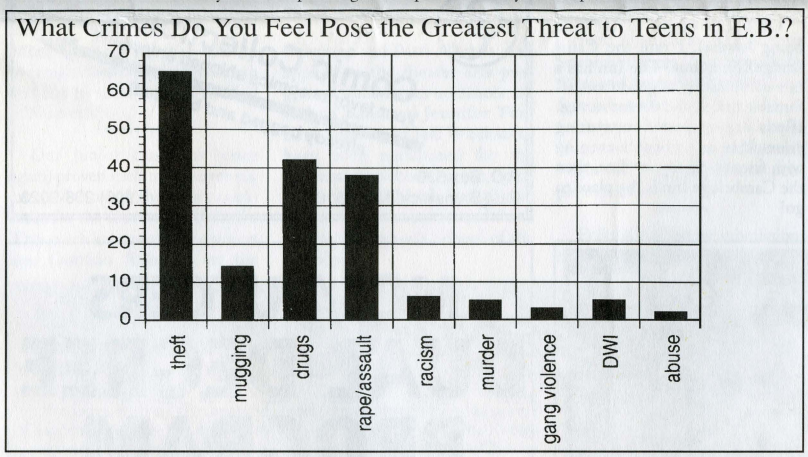
History teacher Ms. Dolores Meyerhoff said, "Hatred and intolerance against others is terrible. It diminishes us."

An anonymous junior commented, "I feel that if these prejudiced acts continue, our reputation as a Blue Ribbon School will be hurt."

Sophomore Melissa Berkowitz said, "Lately, it seems that kids are expressing their opinions in ways that are more noticeable to the community. Racism never seemed a problem in East Brunswick."

After the incidents, Mayor Ira Oskowsky and members of the East Brunswick Human Relations Board met with officials of the school board to sponsor a community forum on prejudice.

"I believe people are prejudiced because of a lack of education and understanding of other people," stated Oskowsky. "If you can discuss that, the world will be a better place."



Crime creeps into EB

by Lauren Pachman

Although crime is not considered by many to be a significant problem in East Brunswick, it does exist, and prevention must be addressed. Recent trends in East Brunswick crime indicate that violent crimes are decreasing while lesser crimes continue to be committed.

According to Lieutenant Thomas Finn of the East Brunswick Police Department, theft is the most common crime in East Brunswick. Shoplifting and vandalism are also widespread, and the narcotics unit currently receives a steady number of drug-related cases.

Still East Brunswick is not considered to be a high-crime area because very few rapes or homicides are committed. Car theft was once a problem, but, along with drunk driving, it has since declined. Although there have been two highly publicized incidents of bias graffiti at EBHS and the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School recently, bias crime is not regarded as an epidemic.

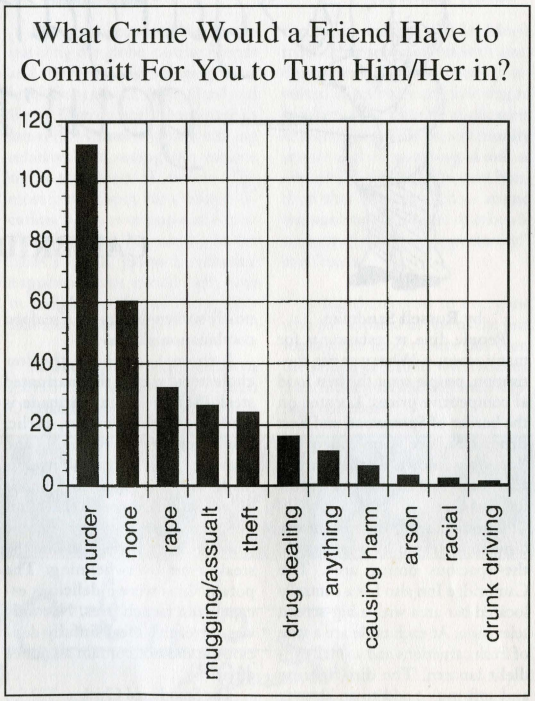
Although the majority of students interviewed had never witnessed a crime, or been a victim of one, there were exceptions. One anonymous sophomore said, "I was at 7-Eleven with a friend. He took a box full of baseball cards, dumped them in his bookbag, paid for two [other] packs, and walked out with about thirty packs in his bookbag. I didn't report him, but I felt guilty about it afterward."

Sophomore Karen Sommers said that she and her family have begun to take more precautions to protect themselves. She said, "We got a security system [for our house]. I'm starting to lock up my bike more often [when I am] at the library. I don't ride my bike on Riva Avenue. You never know who is going to jump out at you, or what is going to happen."

*****

To prevent yourself from becoming a victim, Lieutenant Finn offered the following advice:

- Always lock parked cars.
- When out at night, stay in a well-lit area and near a building.
- When leaving a car, be certain to hide any packages where they won't be seen.
- Get an alarm system for your home, and use it.
- Get a dog—it doesn't matter what size, as long as it barks loudly.



Mace policy proposed

by Maureen Shames

The rash of reported attacks on motorists has sparked the District 18 legislators to spearhead legislation providing civil immunity to people who use chemical substances for self-defense.

Under the current law, a person may legally possess and use a chemical substance, such as mace, for self-protection. In such cases, the person discharging the chemical substance is afforded immunity from any criminal prosecution on the grounds that his actions were justifiable in order to protect himself.

Since there is no comparable statute providing immunity from civil liability to persons using mace or a similar chemical substance for protection, there is a possibility of a civil lawsuit in which an individual who used mace would be sued for damages by his attacker.

Last week, Assemblymembers Harriet Derman and Jeff Warsh introduced legislation to provide immunity from civil liability to persons using mace. The legislation will be sponsored in the Senate by Senator Jack Sinagra.

"People need to know that they can protect themselves from assaults without being penalized," Sinagra said. "It would be unconscionable for an attacker to sue his victim for damages."

"If anything good has come out of the rash of carjackings in New Jersey, it is that it has raised the level of awareness," Derman said. "Many people are seeking a means to protect themselves. It's an absolute necessity that we support their right for self-protection."

Derman, who organized a public-private partnership to educate female drivers about taking precautions with respect to stopping for unmarked law enforcement vehicles, said she hopes her efforts will prevent another incident in which an individual posing as a State Police Officer sexually assaulted a woman on the New Jersey Turnpike in East Brunswick.

Warsh vowed to work tirelessly to see that this legislation receives swift passage into law. He welcomes constituents to give their input regarding this legislation and to share ideas for increasing security. The District 18 office is located in Edison and can be contacted at (908) 819-7551.

"One of my New Year's resolutions was to help make our constituents feel more safe in suburbia," Warsh said. "Many, many residents have expressed fears about leaving their homes at night. I'm hoping our legislation will help make 1993 a year in which people can legally protect themselves."

After a Piscataway mother was abducted and murdered in early November, the District 18 legislators began to step up efforts to provide constituents with a measure of security.

Sinagra, Derman and Warsh organized a District 18 security meeting early this month to give local officials, mall managers, and police an opportunity to exchange ideas about increasing security. In addition, Sinagra has sponsored legislation to legalize the sale of stun guns in New Jersey.

Survey created and compiled by: Robert Asaro-Angelo, Brian Davidson, John Dickinson, Lori Derr, Wendy Erman, Shari Goldberg, Alyssa Kramer, Joel Lynn, Michelle Meyer, Jennifer Paskewich, Geoffrey Rose, Michele Seelinger, and Kenneth Stahl.
Graphs created by Todd Dubinsky.

the gargantuan gourmet

CAMBRIDGE INN

by Russell Sandman

People dine at restaurants for many reasons. Whatever the motivation, people want the best food at competitive prices. Located on the border of Spotswood and East Brunswick, the Cambridge Inn (formerly known as the Varsity Club and The Chowder Pot) offers just that.

Upon entering the restaurant, diners are seated by a hostess in the spacious dining area. The Cambridge Inn also has a centrally located bar area with a big-screen television. At each table are a vase of fresh carnations and a small candlelit lantern. The dim lighting and soft music add to an already relaxed atmosphere.

Before the appetizer, fresh rolls and complimentary mussels in marinara sauce are available. Salads include spinach, Caesar, or tossed, and a choice of many dressings.

Entrees are sure to satisfy people of many tastes. They include a choice of rice, baked potato, french fries, or linguini. For those who are on a diet, or extremely health-conscious, a low-cholesterol menu is always an option. The prices range from five dollars and seventy five cents for soup and salad to nearly sixteen dollars for a seafood combination platter.

I chose a meal on the low cholesterol menu, the marinated steak ($11.95). The marinade is made with wine vinegar, garlic, black pepper, parsley, oil, and lemon pepper. The steak itself is made with top grade beef, and is served with fried potato skins. It is not incredibly zesty, but people with less spicy tastes may find the steak a bit overwhelming. The potato skins were a delicious escape from french fries. Not only was the entire meal sinfully delicious, it did not contain an ounce of fat!

The Smothered Chicken ($12.95) is a dish made with onions, mushrooms, sherry, and brown sauce. The chicken is bland, but accentuated by the strong flavor of the generous combination of toppings. The chicken was a nice meal, but not comparable to the marinated steak.

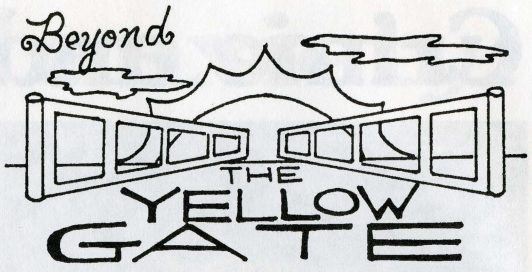
For seafood lovers, the baked stuffed flounder ($13.50) is outstanding. Made with fresh filet and stuffed with crabmeat, it is sure to please.

The portions are generous, but not overly-huge. This is ideal because dessert is a meal in itself. A separate dessert menu lists a variety of mouth-watering treats and specialty coffees. Some desserts include French Silk Pie, custard flan, rice pudding, and a variety of cheesecakes.

I ordered the Toll House Pie ($2.95). The pie filling was made of chocolate chips, nougat, and brown sugar and served in a toll house cookie crust. A small dish of vanilla ice cream accompanies the pie. For anyone who has more than one sweet tooth, this will surely be a winner.

Other than a good conversation, nothing is better with a meal than entertainment. The Cambridge Inn offers live entertainment Fridays and Saturdays after 9:00 p.m. with small bands, solo singers and/or club acts. On Thursdays, the entertainment includes karaoke sing-alongs.

On a scale of one to five (one being lowest), I rate the Cambridge Inn a four. The Inn has a rare combination of good food, affordable prices, and decent service. If you are interested in treating yourself to an enjoyable evening with friends, family, or date, then the Cambridge Inn is the place to go!



by Stephanie Knox

Now that the school year is well underway, there's a lot to report. Exciting things are happening in schools all over the country. Let me elaborate...

The students at Newton North High School in Newton, Massachusetts might think that the following is a little less than exciting. Their teachers have declared that they'll stop doing all voluntary work, which involves clubs, college recommendations, and more! The teachers are without contracts and are showing their frustrations with the school and community. A similar boycott took place in November 1984 and lasted until February 1985. This action, or lack thereof, will undoubtedly make the already difficult application process even more nerve-racking for students.

****

A tribute to modern technology! Students in the video club at Woodlands High School in Hartsdale, New York are creating a video yearbook. The tape will consist of the school's extracurricular activities set to modern music. This new video club is advised by the new media center director, Mr. Carmine Iannace, who formerly worked for MTV on the production of the shows *Turn It Up, Yo! MTV Raps*, *MTV News*, and *The Week in Rock*.

****

History students at Manasquan High School in New Jersey buried a time capsule on October 12, Columbus Day, in honor of the quincentennial. The capsule, to be opened in 2017, includes an AIDS pamphlet, presidential campaign buttons, magazines, a student handbook, a videotape of current news, a condom, a student list and class picture, and more. The students wrote themselves letters which they'll receive at their 25th reunion, at which time the capsule will be dug up.

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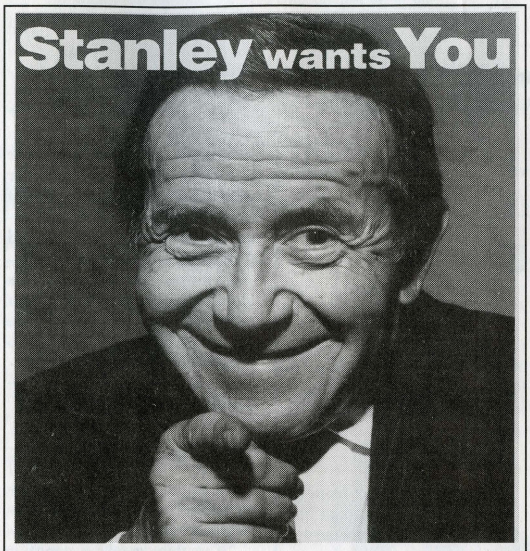

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Rachel Stark
Seniors Aaron Silverman and Sharmey Choksi enjoy out-to-lunch at Bagel Express.

Vital first impressions: *Advice from the student body*

by Celina Su

So you're finally getting together with this person you've loved for so long (or at least for a couple of days). This is your chance to prove you are *the* one, that the two of you were made for each other. I have compiled a collection of tips for that all important first date.

> "Make sure you don't spill your drink in his lap."

Don't forget the little details. One helpful point for girls made by sophomore Becky Weiner, "Don't wear dark lipstick."

Good hygiene is also a must. Senior Aaron Silverman advised, "Look clean, unless your date is grungy—then you two can be grungy together."

Sophomore Bela Pandit said, "Shower before you go."

An anonymous hint was, "Wear deodorant."

Sophomore Maria Alsina summed it up: "Just try to make a good impression."

Now that you're prepared, what do you do on the actual date? Sophomore Dan Torres advised, "Show up on time," while fellow sophomore Andrea Mazzocco added, "Do something you both enjoy."

Sophomore Stacey Kaye said, "Don't bore him with stupid stories, don't stuff your face, [and] make sure you don't spill your drink on his lap."

If you are going out to eat, sophomore Sheila Merchant advised, "Don't eat Mexican food."

As to where to go, seniors Kristina Takacs and Shantanu Deshpande suggested, "The Cambridge Inn is good, but a bit expensive."

There are other general rules. Junior Allison Rothbaum's tip was, "Don't be too shy, but don't talk too much either."

Bela suggested, "Don't make too much fun of him."

Sophomore Paula Sarapin said, "Do not go for a one-night-stand."

A tip to fellow males (sure to please the female population) was made by sophomore Marc Yannaco. "Do whatever the girl wants you to do."

Attitude is extremely important. Andrea said, "Be happy; have a good time."

Maria advised, "Don't be nervous."

"Be nice; be a good listener," said Bela.

"Pay attention to your date and be honest," advised Aaron.

The most important point was repeated over and over again. "Be yourself." As sophomore Kevin Swinesburg put it, "I don't think you should adapt yourself to your date."

These are probably the most essential elements of a first date, or any relationship for that matter. Just keep calm, try to remember these tips, do what you think is right, and hope for the best. If it doesn't work out, it probably wasn't meant to be.

Restaurants offer student discounts

by Rachna Shah

Several East Brunswick restaurants, including Taverna's Pizzeria, Bella La Pizza, and Manhattan Bagel, offer discounts or lunch specials to students. According to senior Debra Shaffer, "Many students have to earn their own money, so they look for these deals or discounts so they don't end up wasting money."

Senior Cindy Mustillo commented, "The more affordable [the restaurant] is, the more prone students are to go there."

Of the various restaurants which offer specials, senior Harris Aaron said, "Taverna's is the best, definitely. Also, by charging a little less, they get a lot more business." Taverna offers two slices and a soda for two dollars, a price which almost any senior can afford.

Senior Nabila Dahodwala stated, "I like Taverna's because it's so much better than McDonald's, where you end up paying three to four dollars."

Bella La Pizza offers the same deal as Taverna's, but senior Carla Swartz prefers Taverna's. "The pizza just tastes better, and the atmosphere is better, too." Carla added, "Another good deal is at Manhattan Bagel where you get a ten percent discount."

One of the few establishments that offer a deal to students with good grades is the luncheonette at Woolworth's in the Caldor shopping center in North Brunswick. A student can bring his/her report card to the restaurant and will receive a free hamburger, fries, and soda for three A's, fries and a soda for three B's, and a soda for C's.

Senior Cindy Mustillo said, "The more deals there are, the more competition there will be among restaurants, and then the prices will go even lower."

Students agree that their choices for lunch places do depend on the prices of the meals. Harris commented, "We're looking for quality at a low price."

Students recount vacation horrors

by Zack Stewart

In the movies, an exciting vacation consists of sledding across a major highway or being arrested in another country for resembling a wanted spy. Although no one seems to have gone through either of these experiences, EBHS students had some interesting stories to share about their vacationing frolics and nightmares.

"On my way to India, my plane was stuck in London while they changed all sixteen of its tires. I was stranded there for thirty-six hours, but at least I got to see a royal parade," junior Pooja Sharma commented.

Junior Dave Schutzbank said, "One time my family stopped at a gas station on our way to Vermont. Everyone hopped out to go to the bathroom and we locked ourselves out of the car. Luckily for us, the station attendant knew just how to break into the car."

Some storytellers were so embarrassed that they could not reveal their identities.

"My family and I were on a camping trip in the mountains. When we reached the cabin, my dad stopped the truck but forgot to put on the emergency brake. When we started to unpack inside the cabin, we heard this noise. It was our truck, which was half immersed in the lake. The seats were soaked, and we had to bail out the fish."

> "We had to bail out the fish."

At least the last anecdote involved a dry automobile. "We drove all the way down to Florida before my dad realized that his driver's license was still in East Brunswick. Someone mailed it to us in Florida, but by then we'd left the hotel."

One student was shocked to hear of these other stories. "Everyone else goes on these vacations of splendor while I go to Great Adventure and go on the Rotor with my parents." Life is tough, even on vacation.

These adventures provide an interesting contrast to the old staples of sunbathing and watching soap operas, but they aren't the kind of excitement most look for in a vacation. Advice to readers: bring a map and put your car keys aside before you pack. For your sake, don't end up on *America's Funniest Home Videos* or *Rescue 911*.

Late buses are a bumpy ride home

by Jonathan Agnew

Each day at about 3:00 p.m., a group of students congregate out in front of the school to wait for the late buses. It is true that many people would not have transportation home were it not for these late buses, but what do students *really* think?

Many of those interviewed had complaints about their late bus drivers. "[My bus driver] yells at the same people everyday, but never does anything about them," said one sophomore.

"[My bus driver] is like ninety years old," said sophomore Russell Sandman. "It would help if she were tall enough to see out the window," he added.

Many times the late buses truly live up to their name and arrive late. "You can't miss Bus Two because it never arrives at all," said sophomore Adrienne Tsai.

The late bus routes seem to be arbitrarily selected. "The bus routes are very inefficient. It takes an hour to get home and then the bus stop is about a mile from my house," said junior Jessica Freeman.

A sophomore said that his late bus is almost entirely empty; however, a student from another late bus said that her late bus is almost always crowded. "I had to sit on the floor of the bus once because there weren't enough seats," she said.

Several students were critical of others on the late bus. One sophomore called those who ride his late bus "an unruly collection of detained students who release rebellious repression on smaller people."

Another student had a complaint about a particular person. "Once I was on the bus and someone right behind me was smoking and blowing smoke all over," he said. "My bus smells like head cheese," said junior Matt Hand.

Late bus riders are a cross-section of EBHS students. Some receive detentions, others stay for extra help, and still others are involved in clubs. Whatever the reason for staying late, the experience of riding the late bus is precisely that—an experience.

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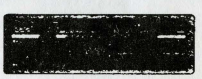
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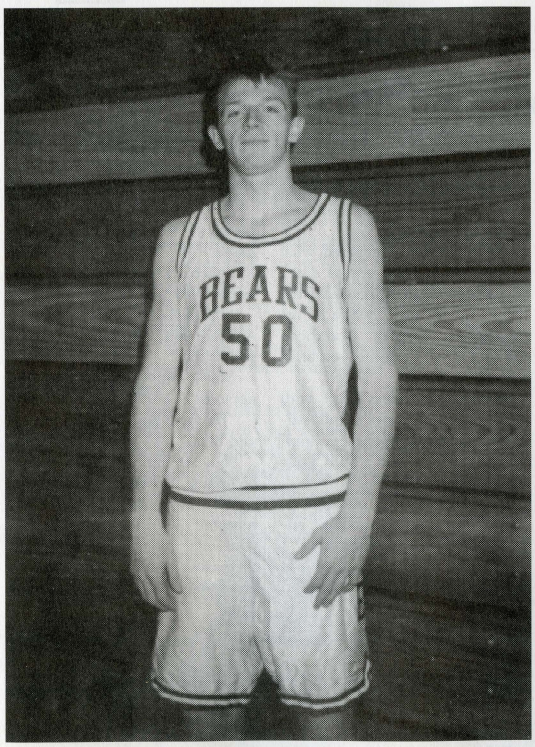

Peggy Au

Athlete of the Issue:

Rich Kutza

by Barbara Green

Senior Rich Kutza has been competing in varsity soccer, basketball, and baseball since his sophomore year. Putting soccer on hold for this past season, Rich has been focusing his efforts on basketball. "Basketball has opened up my future," stated Rich. "It's given me something fun to do, and I'd like to continue playing in college."

Rich began participating in organized basketball at age eleven for St. Bart's. He then went on to play for Churchill in eighth and ninth grade and became a member of the EBHS Boys Basketball team as a sophomore.

Rich was named Most Valuable Player on the basketball team and a member of the GMC All-Red Division team as a junior. He has also been named EBHS Athlete of the Year for two consecutive years.

Robert Henning, coach of the Boys Basketball team stated, "Rich is one of the easiest kids to coach, probably one of the most coachable individuals I've ever had."

Now, as co-captain of the team, Rich feels that the group has a lot of potential.

"When we play together, we play very well," said Rich, "We've gotten off to a slow start, but I'm hoping that things will turn around."

Mr. Robert Henning stated, "Rich is a fine young man. He's really a hard worker, and it's really a pleasure to have him on the team."

Cheering squad recruits male members

by Amanda Smith

For the past two years the EBHS cheerleading squad has included male cheerleaders. Last year there were three males on the team and currently there are four. This year's members are seniors David Lawson, Ron Shuali, and James Stapleton and sophomore Mike Drulis.

"I've been shooting for this for years. I finally have a group of excellent kids—guys and girls. I'm ecstatic," stated cheerleading coach Ms. Deborah Mangino.

The male cheerleaders "set the team on a new level and enhance the entire aspect," said Coach Mangino, citing the mixing of male and female voices in cheers as an example.

Junior cheerleader Ilysa Katz echoed her coach's sentiments. "It's like cheering on a collegiate level," she said.

Sophomore cheerleader Monica Bouwsma stated, "They [the guys] provide a variety and give us no limitations."

"We have more diversity and can do more complicated stunts," said junior cheerleader Dana Gorman.

David agreed. "We assist in stunts that girls couldn't do," he explained.

The four male cheerleaders had different reasons for joining the squad. Mike Drulis explained it as "something different and new, something that wasn't done before."

Ron Shuali said he joined the squad because "it's lots of fun and you meet new people, plus a lot of colleges offer [cheerleading] scholarships, especially [those] in the South."

James Stapleton said, "Ms. Mangino told us about it, and so we joined."

All four males agreed that they are breaking stereotypes, and their female teammates support them. "It breaks the barrier of the stereotypical cheerleader," said junior team member Joanne O'Sullivan.

For the most part, students are also in favor of the squad's co-ed effort. Junior Shalini Ramasunder said, "It improves the quality of the squad because [the cheerleaders] can do better formations."

"They have a lot more potential now and I like their stunts," stated senior Francesco Alsina.

Senior Celia Cackowski said, "I think it's really cool. It's great that our school is open-minded."

Junior Mike Silver had a more humorous view. "I think they really need the pom-poms and should wear the skirts."

Senior co-captain Cynthia Bennett said, "We appreciate all the effort put forth by the male cheerleaders and hope that they will attract more to come and join."

Bowlers strike again!

by Sherry Cheng

This year's boys and girls bowling teams opened their seasons with numerous wins against tough opponents. With many more tough teams like Woodbridge and Edison still to be played, both teams hope to win more games as their seasons continue.

Coach Gill Mangieri, who coaches both the boys and girls teams, said, "The boys will be very competitive this year, and I expect both teams to be in the top three ranking for the conferences."

This year's boys team, led by senior co-captains Chris Burke and Mike Toth, consists mostly of upperclassmen. It also includes: seniors Brett Bauman, Peter Dzwonczyk, Mark Lorenzo, and Mike Toth; juniors Suresh Pothiraj and Bob Tagliente; sophomores Jon Horowitz, Tom Messina and Kyle Volk; and freshmen Anthony Hill and Bob Makulinski.

The girls team, made up mostly of underclassmen, is led by junior co-captains Wendy Hastings and Kelli Foster. The other members of the team are juniors Christing Hui, Kasey Knesel, and Rachel Tomori; sophomore Jennifer Ng; and freshmen Vera Calton, Jennifer Foster, Jessica Smith and Larisa Somma.

Each team has its "stand out" individuals. Wendy Hastings, Kelli Foster, Jen Foster, Jessica Smith, Chris Burke, Mike Toth, Suresh Pothiraj, and Tom Messina "stand out" because they are consistent in winning their games. Their consistency pulls the teams through at strategic moments.

The boys have compiled a record of 3 wins and 1 loss, while the girls have a record of 2 wins, 1 tie, and 1 loss. This record is considerably better than last year. Despite both teams' winning records, however, many team members feel that they could be doing better.

"We started out all right because we played against hard teams and did well," said junior Rachel Tomori.

"We're not doing as well as we ought to," said junior Suresh Pothiraj.

Aware that they can improve from last year's performance, the co-captains from both teams tried to improve the skills and attitudes of the bowlers. Before the season started, co-captains Chris Burke and Mike Toth took the bowlers to six or seven practice sessions at Mid-State Bowling Alley. They attempted to prepare the team and encourage a winning attitude for games. They taught the bowlers new techniques and tried to improve the thinking involved in the game.

"Intelligence is important in bowling because there are so many places where you want to put the ball in order to get the most pins knocked down," said Chris Burke.

"We hope to go further in the conferences compared to last year," said Kelli Foster.

"If we stay focused on the game, we can be very competitive," said Chris Burke.

Verdict: **Lady Bears sweep the courts**

by Matt Franke

Although the Lady Bears Basketball team fared quite well in the 1991-1992 season, coach Reginald Carney said, "This is our year." That promise seems to be coming true, as the Lady Bears returned this year with a new slogan ("Judgment Day"), a new attitude, and wins—plenty of them.

The team prepared for the 1992-1993 campaign during the summer and fall months. The entire team attended a basketball camp in North Carolina and won the camp championship. Several players also went to additional camps to improve their individual tactics. Junior forward Cortney Blore said that she gained "many valuable experiences" while attending the camps.

Another reason for the team's high expectations is each player's intense conditioning workouts during the off-season. Senior guard Maureen Varela includes three mile runs in her workouts. Senior guard Kara Motusesky said her own workouts have helped her improve her endurance. Almost all team members lift weights and play other sports as well, such as soccer and softball. "Everyone is doing more than expected of them," said Mr. Carney.

As the season opened, the three point shot was frequently used by the team. Not only does the play seem to be a fan favorite, but the accuracy of the team's shot was cited by Maureen as "our secret weapon!"

Another key to the Lady Bears' performance is their defense. Rebounding, blocking, and the press are integral parts of the Lady Bears' "D". "It's [the defense] intense," said junior guard and co-tricaptain Katie Whalen.

Above all other factors, however, the team's unity is what best describes the 1993 Lady Bears. Four of the five starters from last year have returned, including co-tricaptain Kara, and senior guard/forward Jan Przystup.

"This is a good veteran team," said Mr. Carney. "They show a lot of unselfishness and give a lot of encouragement to each other."

Added senior guard Tricia Flanagan, "It helps out that [the team] is really close."

Maureen best summed up the team's unity, "We work and think as one."

"We've been practicing really hard, and it's our turn to win," said Katie.

Kara agreed, "I hope we take it all; we've got a lot of heart."

Yungdar Fu

Junior Courtney Blore refines her lay-up during practice.